

Message Text

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TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: RENAULT SITUATION CONTINUES IN SUSPENSE

1. SUMMARY. RENAULT SITUATION IS DRAGGING ON WITHOUT IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR A BREAK AND WITH HALF WORK FORCE TEMPORARILY IDLE BECAUSE OF CONTINUED SLOWDOWN IN LE MANS PLANT. MANAGEMENT CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT UNLESS LE MANS SLOWDOWN IS ENDED THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATIONS. UNIONS AND ESPECIALLY CGT KEEP REPEATING THREAT OF MILITANT "MASS ACTION" BUT FOR FIRST TIME THESE THREATS DO NOT SOUND CREDIBLE SINCE THEY ARE CONTRADICTED BY REPEATED CGT FAILURES TO ASSEMBLE LARGE NUMBERS OF WORKERS DESPITE HEAVY ADVANCE PUBLICITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SEGUY (CGT SECGEN), WHOSE PROLONGED SILENCE DURING ENTIRE RENAULT EPISODE HAS TEMPTED OBSERVERS SPECULATE ABOUT STATE OF PCF-CGT RELATIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, BROKE FINALLY HIS SILENCE IN A SPEECH IN TOURS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SEGUY TOOK THE ONLY LINE OPEN TO HIM, NAMELY, TO ACCUSE THE GOF AS BEING BEHIND RENAULT'S STUBBORN REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE IN ORDER "TO COW THE WORKERS TO ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES OF AUSTERITY PROGRAM, I.E. LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER AND UNEMPLOYMENT."

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3. EVEN WITH SEGUY'S TALENT FOR SPEECH AND PHRASE-

MAKING, THIS COMMUNIST LINE ABOUT GOF AND AUSTERITY PROGRAM FAILED TO MAKE THE RENAULT CONNECTION AND FELL FLAT IN THE PARISIAN LABOR CIRCLES. FURTHERMORE, CGT LEADERS IN RENAULT WHO HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY ON TV AND RADIO NO LONGER DISPLAY THE DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE AND COMMAND OF SITUATION WHICH CGT HAS TAUGHT THEM TO PROJECT.

4. THE CFDT IS UNUSUALLY QUIET NOT SO MUCH OUT OF MODESTY AS OUT OF TOTAL CONFUSION (ADMITTED FRANKLY TO LABATT BY CFDT LEADERS) BY CGT BEHAVIOR AND ITS OBVIOUS INABILITY TO COPE WITH RENAULT FIRMNESS. CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WAS DRASIC CGT REACTION TO CFDT AND SOCIALIST PARTY ATTEMPTS AT BEGINNING OF AGITATION TO CLAIM A PIECE OF THE ACTION. CGT WOULD HAVE NOTHING OF THE SORT. CFDT, HOWEVER, HAS MANAGED TO KEEP ALIVE THE PERENNIAL THREAT IN STRIKE SITUATIONS OF MOVING TO CGT'S LEFT AS SOON AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO PRESENTS ITSELF. THIS ADDED TO CGT'S DISCOMFORT AND APPARENT PARALYSIS.

5. PCF LEADERS AND L'HUMANITE CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST AGGRESSIVE CRITICS OF GOF AND RENAULT CONSTANTLY PROMISING RENAULT WORKERS AND WORKING CLASS IN GENERAL THAT PCF WILL ALWAYS FIGHT ON THEIR SIDE FOR THEIR DEMANDS.

6. ONLY POSITIVE RESULT OF CONFUSING SITUATION IN RENAULT HAS BEEN UNANIMITY OF ALL OBSERVERS INCLUDING GOF OFFICIALS IN THEIR PLEA OF INABILITY TO PREDICT HOW NORMAL CONDITIONS CAN RETURN TO LE MANS AND OTHER RENAULT PLANTS. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT CGT WILL BE THE FIRST TO SWALLOW ITS PRIDE AND BEGIN TO TAKE STEPS TO MEET RENAULT'S DEMANDS. THE ONLY QUESTION IS AT WHAT POINT RENAULT WILL MAKE A GESTURE TO SAVE AT LEAST SOME OF THE CGT FACE. WE DOUBT THAT RENAULT WILL FIND IT WISE TO CAUSE CGT TO LOSE FACE COMPLETELY AND IT WILL WANT INSTEAD TO RESTORE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE NOT ONLY NORMAL CONDITIONS OF PRODUCTION BUT ALSO PREVIOUS PRIVILEGED RELATIONS WITH CGT BASED UNCLASSIFIED

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ON TACITLY AGREED QUID-PRO-QUO EVERY TIME A LABOR CONFLICT SEEMS INEVITABLE.
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